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Councilman Daniel Gordon resigns amidst housing move

Hannah Lanfear
Reporter

City Councilman Daniel Gordon submitted his letter of resignation to city administration Wednesday, citing a move out of the 1st Ward after the purchase of his family home.

“I’m very, very shocked he resigned,” City Councilwoman Sandy Rowland said. “It’s a huge loss. I’m really upset.”

Daniel Gordon has represented Ward 1 on the Bowling Green City Council since 2012. During this time, he served on behalf of Bowling Green residents and for University students on the Transportation and Safety and Parks and Recreation Committees.

He is most known for his work to make Bowling Green a more inclusive and welcoming city and to improve the quality of living. In 2015, he opened Ridge Park, the first park in Ward 1, providing an open space for children and families in the community.

He also played a major role in the addition of more inclusive language in the City Charter and in fighting against the Nexus Pipeline.

Finally, he worked to address the housing quality issue prevalent on the east side of the city. He fought to begin work to improve property values and stock in these areas.

During his re-election campaign, he showed his support of University students by continuing to run his internship program and running on a platform that included issues of importance to students, including the creation of bike lanes, thus showing his effort to build a stronger connection between University students and City Council.

Here is the full letter:

“Dear Mayor Edwards, Members of Council, Administrator Tretter, Clerk Scherreik, and Attorney Marsh,

I had intended to make this announcement at Monday’s Council meeting, but early that evening I had an asthma attack and ended up at the ER. As you know, I’ve been trying to work on improving my health, so I appreciate your patience. I hope you all had a good and productive session. Since our next meeting is three weeks away, I will not be able to make these remarks in person, so in writing will have to do.

As some of you know, I recently purchased my original family home, which is outside of my district. My intent was to fix up the house and move into it following the end of my current term on Council. I have determined, however, that it is no longer financially feasible for me to afford that while continuing to reside at my current address.

Consequently, I am stepping down from my seat now to expedite the process for Council to find a successor.”

Read the rest online @ bgfalconmedia.com

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Bad weather is back, ready or not

Hannah Hawk
Columnist

The time has come. Snifflies and coughs are heard throughout classes, wearing a jacket is normal in the morning but in the afternoon you’re dying from the heat and the fall season has decided to skip this year. The cold air has arrived without much of a warning, and the hardest part of Ohio weather has arrived whether you’re ready or not.

We all felt it: the sudden change of weather that seemed to happen overnight. The change from what felt like 95-degree weather to 50 came over Ohio too quickly. This isn’t something that’s unnatural with Ohio weather. We all complain about it, see it all the time on social media and seem to look at the weather multiple times a day. We’ve all seen the memes talking about how one day in Ohio it’s raining, the next it’s snowing and the next it’s sunny out. Was anyone really prepared for this leap from warm weather to super cold?

Soon we see the numbers drop in our classes for those who don’t want to bear the weather. Illnesses get passed around like never before. Even the professors seem to feel the change of the weather and on rare occasions cancel class. Getting to your car if you drive is a whole mission to staying out of the cold, and scraping the ice off of your car is even worse. On top of that, if the heat isn’t the best in your vehicle, then usually it doesn’t start working until you reach campus. People feel they don’t want to leave their comfortable, warm beds to go out in the bitter cold air.

Another thing that comes with the territory of Bowling Green is the wind. Let’s face it: we’ve all walked to class feeling the harsh stinging from the wind. In some cases, Bowling Green’s wind seems to be so powerful as it literally blows people away. This is because the University is basically placed in a wind tunnel, inviting the cold wind to follow us to class.

There are people who live for this cold weather and never complain about it. These people obviously can’t wait for snow to come and love wearing the abundance of layers to stay warm. While everyone else is dressing head to toe in hats, gloves, winter coats and boots, these people wear a smile on their face, embracing the cold.

On the subject of attire, we also see the “I’m never cold” guys walking around still wearing shorts when the weather says otherwise. There’s also the girls who want to look good no matter what the weather and wear dresses, exposing their legs. Don’t get me wrong, if you can endure the cold props to you, but for most, skin disappears in the winter under layers of clothes trying to find warmth.

If you were prepared for the warmth that can be found in Florida, you came to the wrong school. Whether you like the cold or not, you must be ready for it if you go to Bowling Green. So gather up your winter layers and accept it because this weather isn’t going anywhere anytime soon.

4 tips for applying to graduate school

Angelica Euseary
Columnist

1. Make sure you want to even attend graduate school.
Sometimes people think they have to go to graduate school right after undergrad. You don’t have to go to graduate school if you don’t want to. If you want to take a break, that’s possible. Gap years are a thing. A lot of people tell us that it’s hard to do anything with a bachelor’s degree, but that’s not true. There are plenty of job opportunities for people with bachelor’s; don’t let people make you think you can’t make use of your degree. Anything is possible.

You shouldn’t look into graduate school, especially if you aren’t even interested in it. You might think you have to go because you don’t think you can do anything else. Explore your options; you might be able to find something that is better fit for you.

2. Be realistic with where you’re applying to.
Graduate school is a big step, and there are a lot of factors that need to be taken into consideration. Location, costs and comfortability are things to think about when applying to graduate programs. The location of the school you pick has to fit your needs. You need to be able to live there.

You also need to look into the costs of the graduate program you are looking into as well as the costs of living, health insurance and out of state tuition.

If possible, you should go visit the graduate program you are interested in. It is important that you are comfortable wherever you end up because that’s where you’re going to be for two or more years obtaining another degree.

3. Make sure the path you choose is for you.
Graduate school is a huge investment. It is important to make sure you’ve looked into all your options and be certain about what you’re looking into. Be sure that the programs you’re looking into are ones that you are actually interested in. You’re the one who will be putting the work in for the degree; it’ll be a little easier for you if you’re passionate about it.

4. Make sure there are no typos or grammatical errors in your applications.
There is a lot of competition when applying for graduate schools. There are a lot of potential candidates who are applying for the same scholarships and programs that you are. It is important to make sure you stand out.

Don’t give programs any reason to disregard your application.
Activities to get you in the Fall spirit

Sophia Walcher
Columnist

With the fall season finally upon us in Bowling Green, many of us are getting into the fall spirit, which means bringing on the pumpkin spice lattes, apple orchards and Halloweekends. For most of us, there are certain seasonal activities that have become a staple for the fall season, forming into traditions we all love. However, there is a certain point I begin to yearn for something new. Not only that, but popular activities such as haunted houses, orchards and pumpkin patches tend to add up in the money department. As such, here is a compiled list of several fall activities that won’t break the bank while still creatively appreciating the autumn season.

1. Go on a walk.
While it may sound simple, there is nothing more appreciative of the fall season than taking time to go outside and actually experience it. And with the plethora of college students without cars on campus, a lot of walking tends to be done anyway. Take in the sights and feelings of fall by taking a walk around campus or even a walk around downtown Bowling Green. A nice way to add to this experience would be to listen to music while you are walking. A good song while you’re walking perfectly builds an experience like that out of a movie. My personal recommendation would be an alternative or folk playlist.

2. Binge watch a new TV show.
We’ve all experienced the classic scary movie marathon with our friends, family or significant others during the fall season. Whether you’re a Blair Witch Project or a Halloweentown kind of person, you know the familiar satisfaction with cuddling up with a good bowl of popcorn and candy corn. Try something different this year by watching a new TV show. With resources like Hulu and Netflix the possibilities are endless to watch a new show that gets you in the fall vibe. While you could watch a modern show such as Riverdale, I recommend going a little bit more classic. A great show that is perfect for fall is a show called Twin Peaks, which is centered around the murder of a teenage girl in a small town in the mountains. It has a retro feel to it, and it’s full of lots of twists and turns that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

2. Go on a coffee date.
Albeit common, but keeping it local, a great fall activity would be going to a coffee shop to unwind. My recommendation is Grounds for Thought in downtown Bowling Green. It serves not only as a coffee shop, but as a book and record store as well and offers creative drink flavors and board games to play while relaxing with your friends.

4. Go see a show.
Finally, there is nothing better to do in the fall season than to enjoy yourself. A perfect way to do so is to see a show. Fall is a common time for the theater department to start premiering the shows that they have been rehearsing, and it is a great way to see all of the talent that is on campus. Likewise, there are four improv teams on campus all offering free shows that would be great for a laugh.

A Hispanic Heritage Month tribute

Miah Paloma
Columnist

They say ignorance is bliss. But I think that whoever they are should wake up and smell the roses of wisdom because quite frankly, this statement couldn’t be further from the truth. Blinded by our culture, we as a society fail to see what substances we lack compared to other societies and cultures. Did you know there are many that still don’t know. Everything down to the very pronunciation of her name is a part of who she is.

She also knows she doesn’t have to explain herself to anyone. I don’t know about you, but there are many things I can learn from her in these assertions alone.

About a week later, I had the privilege of meeting Lee. Director of the Odessa Chambliss Center, Lee’s day consists of creating non-profit programs that promote health in the community. Her work is based off of the three main areas of health equity defined by the World Health Organization: social determinants of health, health disparities and social justice.

Social determinants of health means where one lives influences their health. Health disparities means people are born with health problems. Lastly, social justice means all other factors in life could influence one’s health. She trains student leaders to help direct the programs she implements, and she also has conducted a weight loss program.

Amidst her long list of important contributions to her community, Lee still finds time to celebrate her culture. Her office is decorated with Mexican style crosses — which are different in the fact that their design is the Catholic traditional way mixed with the pagan’s design — and Catrinas, which are the decorated skulls in honor of El Dia De Los Muertos (The Day of the Dead).

One of the most remarkable things that both Lee and Piñeiro said they wish they could see in American culture was the importance and concept of family. Both of their cultures incorporate family, whether it’s everyone going to la casa de abuelas por la cena (grandmother’s house for dinner, it’s mainly on sundays), taking care of family, as in Mexico there are almost no nursing homes, or learning Salsa and Marangue at young ages as in Puerto Rico (dance is a vital social staple in Puerto Rico, if you want status you learn how to dance). The simple fact is, family matters. Family is something that as a culture we lack in. The horrible irony is that whether it is through blood relation, adoption or friends, we have a family.

I conclude with this: do not mock and appropriate, but do learn and appreciate. We should celebrate our differences in a way that makes room for others. We should learn that there are many things that we can learn from other cultures. Our way is not the way but a way. Stereotypes divide. Let’s end the division and find what we can learn from each other. Imagine a world where everyone was quicker to listen than to debate, everyone respected each others differences, and treated each other as people. Perhaps it takes a conversation to get us in the right direction.
USG discusses Mercy merger

April Leygraaf
Reporter

College of Health and Human Services Dean Jim Ciesla and Interim Provost John Fischer discussed the recent merger of the University with Mercy College at Monday’s Undergraduate Student Government meeting.

For nearly 50 years, the University and University of Toledo have partnered to bring a nursing program to any desiring student. Currently, students go through the pre-nursing program for two years at the University and then transition to the nursing program at University of Toledo, while still receiving a University degree.

Last May, University of Toledo decided to end the partnership because they did not have enough spots for all of the prospective nursing students from both schools. The University now has plans to fully take over operations of Mercy College over the next two to three years. In September, officials from both colleges signed a letter of intent which allowed the process to start.

“This year we will be exploring the option of potentially having a permanent transfer of the University being July 1, 2019,” Ciesla said.

Some of the main reasons for the new partnership includes hope to improve the nursing program at the University and to increase the number of nursing students and post-traditional nursing students.

Ross Martin, a representative from Environmental Action Group, also spoke at the meeting to discuss an initiative to ban single-use plastic bags. Martin said he hopes to replace all single-use plastic bags on campus with reusable options.

“We want to get renewable alternatives if we can because a ban is problematic for a lot of reasons,” Martin said.

Martin said one of his goals was to get a reusable bag in the hands of every incoming freshman, so they would not be in a situation where they need a single-use bag. Currently when checking out at the Falcon’s Nest, bags are only given if the customer asks for one, but Martin said he hopes by giving everyone a reusable bag, no one will need to ask.

City Council pushes legislation

Adam Gretsinger
City Editor

City Council met Monday night to bring some pieces of legislation into law and to discuss how to approach issues such as drug addiction and gas leaks.

One of the Council’s first decisions of the night was to push forward legislation offering land and real properties to businesses in the city at the request of Bowling Green Economic Development Executive Director Sue Clark.

Clark wanted to push these resolutions forward because of “weather concerns.” She said the properties needing these extra acres would be able to build projects before winter if the ordinances were passed sooner but not if they waited three meetings to pass.

She especially pushed Council to vote on an ordinance giving a manufacturing company called Vehtek Systems Inc. 1.56 acres of real estate, so it could build more parking lot space, as the current space offers little room to house both the company’s racking systems and customers’ cars.

Clark also said the increased lot size would help put Fire Division Chief Bill Moorman at ease, as he mentioned he would feel unsafe driving fire trucks into the tight space to put out potential fires.

Council member Sandy Rowland initially hesitated in approving the request, saying she wanted to “treat everyone fairly” when it came to passing high-citizen-interest legislation but said Council’s history of expediting similar real estate legislation was sensible to follow.

Council President Mike Aspacher concurred, saying, “These are cut-and-dry real estate transactions.

The other resolution gave the Bowling Green Economic Development Foundation 3 acres of land in a technology park, but Clark said Council expected the push, unlike the Vehtek vote.

Moorman also spoke at the meeting to provide an update on the city’s response to last month’s gas leak, when the Fire Division recorded potentially “explosive” amounts of gas coming from a Columbia Gas line downtown. The gas company received criticism for its response, as its workers called the Division hours after discovering the leak.

He said the city had requested face-to-face discussions with company officials following the emergency, and during those discussions, the two parties determined their differences in procedure. Moorman said these differences have been ironed out to ensure the city is more satisfied with the response if another leak occurs.

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Imam Talal Eid recalls journey to America

Mohammad Ashour
Reporter

“I wanted to do something in life,” Eid said about his work in his younger years. After graduating from high school in the capital of Beirut, Eid went to college abroad in Egypt, studying theology at Al-Azhar University to become an imam.

Eid said he felt the urge to study English to better himself and went to England for five months; only after this trip did he return to Lebanon to pursue a career as an imam. It took two years after returning to get assigned to a mosque where he would preach Friday sermons and lead people in prayer.

During this time, Lebanon was going through a civil war.

“I managed how to get along with the different militia by not interfering in their politics,” Eid said about the dangers of living in a land of active conflict and sectarian divides.

In 1980, Eid received a call from the Grand Mufti, the highest-ranking cleric in the country. He wanted to nominate Eid to be among a group of imams to travel beyond Lebanon. Chosen for his English language skills, he was among 10 people from the country to go abroad.

“(Eid) often speaks on and about the community; he highlights the importance of being connected to one another.”

– Manar Alamoudi –
Islamic Center Visitor

The 10 imams were chosen from each region and city in Lebanon. Eid’s mother was happy for him, telling him to go and take his wife and two children with him.

After the nomination, two years passed before hearing from the Grand Mufti again. Eid said he even forgot about the nomination as he continued with his daily duties. But one day, he received the call to go.

“I was told to get ready to leave immediately,” he said with an amused look on his face.

“She locked the door of his apartment and told his mother not to let anyone live there. He breathed heavily when asked why he did not want anyone to live there, including his brother, who he mentioned by name to his mother.

“It was not safe there,” Eid said. His home was in an area between two warring militias, and when fighting broke out, people could not leave their homes, sometimes for days at a time.

Staring ahead, Eid said after he left, there was a relative peace; a ceasefire was brokered in the area where his home was, with the cease fire lasting two months. His brother convinced his mother it was safe to move into Eid’s house.

Two weeks later, the ceasefire broke down during one of the pauses in the fighting. After three days of being trapped in the house, Eid’s brother left the house to get food and on his way back was killed by militias.

“In civil war, people die every day,” he said, his facial expression somber for a moment.

He said he owes his successes to the harsh life he led: living through the war, always working and never being idle.

“Young people today, somehow, are spoiled with the luxury of life,” Eid said. Life was hard, Eid said, working 13 hours a day, six days a week to survive and driving an hour and a half for a one-way trip to get water with the scarcity of supplies and food.

Manar Alamoudi, a visitor to the Islamic Center described Eid as a man who “often speaks on and about the community; he highlights the importance of being connected to one another.”

Khadiga Algabir, an administrator in the center, described Eid as being “on point,” adding that when he sets his sights on a task, he works on it until completion. These are some of his defining traits, Algabir said.

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Closures, changes and more pizza shake up Bowling Green dining

Adam Gretsinger
City Editor

Returning University graduates and parents have seen many changes to the school's look at different Homecomings. This year, different restaurants in town have also seen alterations over the semester that may surprise those returning. These changes range from closures to new features.

Changing restaurants in Bowling Green is not a new phenomenon. The Corner Grill and Myles' Pizza Pub, both staple food centers for decades, closed in 2016, with only the pizza pub reopening under a new name and management.

Here are some of the town's biggest culinary changes this semester:

BurGers BG closed suddenly Oct. 2, leaving employees looking for answers and jobs. The store had been a build-your-own burger restaurant near the east end of campus, but aside from the empty storefront, few other traces of the restaurant exist in public. The store's telephone number sends callers to a turned-off answering machine, and its website no longer exists.

The Dairy Queen on East Wooster Street has been placed under new management, one that has changed the portion sizes of its offerings. While a customer could purchase a small Blizzard treat before this point that contained far more ice cream than just the cup could contain by placing additional ice cream in a large lid, current ice cream portions are more similar to most Dairy Queens’ portions. This has upset different customers, including one customer on Google who said, "[It] used to be the best DQ on the planet. Now it's just like the others." A self-serve fountain drink machine was also added earlier this year.

Rapid Fired Pizza has added a self-pour beer system for of-age patrons in its dining room. Many of the 18 iPourIt devices in place offer Ohio brews, but all of them offer other popular alcoholic beverages. The devices only require the input of a user, who obtains a wrist band through a credit card transaction that tracks their beverage choices and limits them up to 32 ounces of beer, 12 ounces of wine or combinations of the two.

A Cameo Pizza restaurant opened inside Doc's Big City Saloon early in the semester. As one of the few restaurants open until 2:30 a.m. from Thursday to Saturday, the store can serve late-night tastes in ways few restaurants in Bowling Green can. The place sharing space with the bar allows it to host music performances every Friday.

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After coaching change, Falcons prepare for Ohio University

Evan Hayes
Pulse Editor

The 2018 football season has been a trying one for the Falcons, and the scrutiny from outside the program came to a head Sunday with the announcement that head coach Mike Jinks had been fired following last weekend’s homecoming loss to Western Michigan.

Athletic Director Bob Moosbrugger named Defensive Coordinator Carl Pelini interim head coach of the Falcons (1-6, 0-3 MAC) for the rest of the season. The timing of the move was both expected and difficult; the new coach will have just six days to prepare for the away matchup with the Bobcats (3-3, 1-1 MAC).

“What we need now as a family, as a group, as a program, is to all be on the same page and all keep moving forward in the same direction in a positive way. Very little distractions, stay focused on their studies, on their day to day routine as a student athlete and on Ohio University,” said Pelini. “We’re going to roll up our sleeves, we’re going to prepare for Ohio University and we’re going to put the best product on the field that we can put.”

Jinks’ path to a pink slip was easily visible after the Falcons were essentially blown out in their conference opener against Miami on September 24. The next three games became must wins, and losing the ninth straight Battle of I-75 and dropping a close homecoming contest in front of University alumni became a death sentence. Leadership could not wait any longer, choosing to fire him immediately rather than waiting until the end of the season.

“That’s something I struggled with, quite honestly” Moosbrugger said. “I kept going back and forth with it, and it ultimately came down in the best interest of our student athletes. I felt it was the right time to do it at this time in the season.”

Pelini takes over the program as one of the more experienced head coaches in University history, with a coaching career spanning over 30 years at both the high school and college levels. Born in Youngstown, Pelini most recently spent two seasons as the defensive coordinator at Youngstown State and has held coaching positions at Ohio University and two Ohio high schools. He will have the final five games of the season to prove he is the man to hold down the job on a permanent basis.

“The most important thing to me at this moment is our players and the young men in that locker room,” Pelini said. “My intention as the interim head coach is to keep things moving in a positive direction, to focus on micro changes that I think can make us better, keep the moral up, keep the routine in place.”

Preparing for Ohio will be no easy task for Pelini. The Falcons have been one of the worst teams in the nation on defense this season while the Bobcats have the third highest scoring offense in the MAC (34.2 points per game). The new head coach will look to improve the culture of the program through transparency and vigilance.

“I understand the uncertainty in their minds, the uncertainty in the minds of the staff,” Pelini said, “but the bottom line is what I’ve learned over my years as a football coach and as a professional is that you just control what you can control. And what we can control is how we work day-to-day to prepare for Ohio University. Focus on the academic side of the program, focus on the athletic side of the program and just keep our nose to the grindstone.”

While they have struggled on defense and on the ground this year, the Falcons’ passing attack has been one of the best in the MAC. Led by quarterback Jarret Doege and wide receivers Quintin Morris and Scott Miller, Bowling Green is currently first in the MAC in passing yards per game (278.9) and passing touchdowns (19). Ohio has struggled this season defending the pass, giving up a conference worst 327.2 passing yards per game and 15 passing touchdowns. Doege and the Bowling Green receiving corps will be the main focus on offense.

The past two weeks have shown that the Falcons can compete against teams in the MAC.
Opinion: Second chance for Crew fans

Jacob Clary  
Sports Editor

It has been just over a year to the day when Anthony Precourt, owner of Columbus Crew SC, was trying to move the team away from its home in Columbus and to Austin, Texas. In that time, there has been a lot made about this move and how Precourt never really tried to make Columbus work after buying it from the Hunt family, and the move to Austin was his plan all along after buying the Crew.

Precourt made it known to everyone that he wanted to move the team, and he was almost able to get away with it too, if it wasn’t for Jimmy Haslam and his contingency. News broke Friday that the Cleveland Browns owner, along with a group of other investors, including Pete Edwards Jr., were purchasing the Crew to make sure they stay in Columbus.

Major League Soccer released a statement after the reports flooded social media that the Crew had been saved.

“Major League Soccer and the Columbus Partnership have been working together for several months on a plan to keep Crew SC in Columbus, and we have made significant progress. Recently, the Haslam Family – along with the Columbus-based Edwards Family, have joined the effort to keep Crew SC in Columbus. MLS, the Columbus Partnership and the investor group all agree that for the club to be successful in Columbus, it requires strong local partners, long-term corporate support, a strong season ticket base and long-term plans for a stadium, practice facilities and associated sites. MLS is committed to keeping Crew SC in Columbus should we continue to make progress on these critical components and agree to key terms with the investor group. MLS recognizes the cooperation Precourt Sports Ventures has demonstrated throughout the process to date. MLS also remains very committed to PSV’s plan to launch an MLS club in Austin and is excited for Austin to become a great addition to MLS. We will continue to work with PSV and the City of Austin on the timing around the launch of Austin FC.”

This statement confirms the reports and rumors, giving the soccer fans in Columbus something to cheer for: they can keep their team. However, it is important the fans in Columbus realize their luck, and start supporting the team with renewed vigor. This gives the Crew fans a second chance to love their team.

It also can’t be overstated how unfair Precourt and Don Garber have made it for the MLS fans. There are plenty of cities which deserve a team, like Sacramento and Phoenix, but Precourt gets to skip ahead of all of those cities and get a team of his own. This is less a comment about the Crew and more about how Garber has created a double standard for teams who want to enter MLS.

Overall, this news is good for everyone. Columbus gets to keep their team. MLS purists get to keep the heritage and for FC Cincinnati fans, they get an immediate and perfect rivalry. Let’s just hope Columbus fans don’t take this news for granted, because they almost lost their team for good.

Warriors may earn Finals trophy

Parker Kern  
Sports Reporter

The NBA season is upon us, and like any new season, fans of all teams are filled with hope, and wonder if their team can win enough regular season games to make it to the playoffs. With star players moving around the league like we’ve never seen before, this season is sure to be a drama-filled one, and hopefully a competitive one, as well.

The biggest splash of the offseason came when LeBron James took his talents to the City of Angels to join the Los Angeles Lakers. The Lakers have a great young core, highlighted by Lonzo Ball and Brandon Ingram, and adding an all-time great talent like James could certainly elevate the Lakers into playoff contention instantly. It would take a few Golden State Warrior injuries and a miracle for the Lakers to make the NBA Finals this year, however, look for the Lakers to solidify themselves as a legit title contender this summer in free agency, where they’ll look to sign or trade for players like Anthony Davis and/or Kawhi Leonard.

Speaking of Kawhi Leonard, he finds himself north of the US-Canada border this year in Toronto, and former Raptor DeMar DeRozan is checking out life in Texas. I think Kawhi is a better overall player than DeRozan, so it would seem to me that the Raptors won this trade, however, it will be interesting to see how good Kawhi really is coming off an injury. DeRozan and the Spurs took a significant loss in the offseason, losing Spurs legends Manu Ginobili (retirement) and Tony Parker (signed with Charlotte Hornets). DeRozan and forward LaMarcus Aldridge are the new 1-2 punch for the Spurs, whose reign as a consistent threat in the Western Conference Finals in the Spring.

Since the Cleveland Cavaliers’ reign as the supreme team in the East is essentially over, there are three teams that I believe are currently the upper echelon in the conference. The Raptors, who I touched on earlier, the 76ers and the Celtics. The Raptors have solid starters, but I believe depth is an issue. The 76ers have young talent mixed with veterans, but I don’t think their young core is quite ready to contend for a championship this year. Boston is the team I believe will rule the East this year. If everyone stays healthy, this squad could easily win 65 games. With Kyrie Irving, Gordon Hayward and Al Horford being veteran leaders, young players like Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum will continue to improve and make the Celtics my clear-cut favorite to run away with the East this year.

I’ve saved the best for last. It vexes me as to how a team that is already so good could sign another elite player, but that’s exactly what the Golden State Warriors have done. DeMarcus Cousins, a top three center in the league, signed with the Warriors on a one-year, $5.3 million deal. Cousins ruptured his Achilles last season, and as a result, won’t play until well into the regular season. Even then, he will be brought into the fold slowly. With respect to Boogie, his return in the regular season won’t matter much. What will matter is how he will perform in the postseason, which is ultimately what the team signed him for. The Warriors will continue to be the best team in basketball, followed somewhat closely by Houston and Boston. I could see the Rockets giving the Warriors fits during the regular season and may even finish with a better regular season record than Golden State, but if Cousins returns for the playoffs in his regular form and all the other usual weapons for the Warriors step up, you might as well just hand them the Larry O’Brien Trophy right now.
From film to teaching: Dr. Gibson’s career evolution

Paul Garbarino
Managing Editor

He was accepted into one of the most selective film schools in the nation. He didn’t go. By sheer chance, Thomas Gibson, the University’s vice president for student affairs, abandoned his filmmaking dream to instead guide students in their college careers as a leader in higher education.

Film, theater and media are ingrained in Dr. Gibson’s ethos. While earning his bachelor’s in communications with a minor in English focusing on contemporary drama from Eastern Connecticut State University, Gibson landed a behind the scenes job with a local news station, putting him one step closer to what he thought was his dream: becoming a news anchor.

After about four years he became an expert at his job. Expert to a fault. While the experience was exciting initially, he said the novelties of the profession waned as his job began to feel as if he was just monotonously pressing buttons on an assembly line as opposed to critically thinking about his work.

“I began to reflect on a time where I felt most fulfilled. A time in which I felt I was helping lots of people: when I was in college,” Gibson said.

So he went back. Immediately following graduation, Gibson decided to quit the news station and work as a high school English teacher while simultaneously pursuing his master’s in English education from the University of New Haven. He wanted to use his education experience to transition into a career in higher education.

Gibson landed a job as a residence hall director after teaching English for about four years. Though his experience as a residence hall director further cemented his passion for higher education, there was still another passion pulling at his heart: film.

Just two years after working in higher education, he sent out an application for the City University of New York’s film school, where at the time only 12 applicants were accepted a year. He got in.

He packed up his apartment in Connecticut and prepared for his journey to New York for a new life. But the last thing he had left to pack was his landline telephone, and just before he threw it in a box, it rang.

A recruiter from the University of Connecticut called him about a job opening at the university, and told him he’s a good candidate for the job. Gibson told the recruiter that he wasn’t interested, but the recruiter convinced him to at least apply. Gibson “liked this idea of having options.”

After all, it isn’t easy becoming the next Steven Spielberg or Martin Scorsese.

The University of Connecticut brought him in for an interview and offered him a job the very next day. “Then I did a lot of soul searching. I was up all night trying to weigh my options,” Gibson said.

Ultimately, he decided he could always go back to film school. He ended up working for the University of Connecticut for over eight years. During that time he also earned his doctorate from Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island. Then he moved out west to work as the associate vice president for student affairs at Ball State University. After a few years there he got a call for a job at Bowling Green State University, and the rest is history.

Gibson devotes his time to ensuring students feel welcome at the University, and he commemorates students for their accomplishments, assuring them that their work is not going unnoticed.

He stalks around campus to greet students and offer friendly gestures. He asks students questions and listens keenly on student concerns. He invites students to accompany him in the Doyt Perry Stadium student affairs suite during football games.

Gibson’s career experience highlights how being a student is a very nuanced and unpredictable journey, and he has dedicated himself to aiding students on their individual treks through life.

Gibson has been working at the University since 2016, and 2018 marks his 21st year in higher education. Through helping students’ wellbeing and engagement on campus, Gibson’s main goal as vice president for student affairs is to increase the University’s student retention rate to over 90 percent.
Candidates vie for secretary of state

Kylie Tusing
Reporter

Nov. 6 is coming up quickly, and the race for the secretary of state in Ohio is upon us.

The nominees for this year are Kathleen Clyde, running democrat, and Frank LaRose, running Republican. Both Clyde and LaRose have similar policies in the security of our right to vote and fair elections for the people. Additionally, both candidates strongly believe in the growth of small businesses in communities and cities.

College Republicans President David Jenkins talked about his viewpoint on Frank LaRose.

“Frank LaRose has done great work as a senator. Both candidates, in facing one another, have decided to run a clean process of registering to vote. “This will protect the votes of Ohioans and take out those voters who are not legally registered to vote,” Jenkins said.

College Democrats President Eve Cervenka talked about her viewpoint on Kathleen Clyde running for office.

“We are the next generation of voters and leaders, and I think it’s important to elect candidates who prioritize student issues.”

Eve Cervenka
College Democrats President

College Democrats President Eve Cervenka talked about her viewpoint on Kathleen Clyde running for office.

“I support her wholeheartedly. I always think we need more women running at every level of government; that’s how we ensure women’s issues are being addressed. Rep. Clyde has a law background, which I think puts her in a good position to run for Ohio Secretary of State. She visited Bowling Green a few weeks ago to speak with some of our college democrats, and I was impressed with her desire to protect voting rights in Ohio and remove barriers for people, especially students, to vote.

“We are the next generation of voters and leaders, and I think it’s important to elect candidates who prioritize student issues. Rep. Clyde’s time as an Ohio House Representative and working in the Secretary of State’s office has given her the experience I believe necessary for this sort of position. We are less than a month from the election, so I encourage everyone to get out and vote,” Cervenka said.

The general vote starts at 6:30 a.m. on Nov. 6.
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